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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/118,754	07/17/1998	HIDEO NORO	B208-973	9346

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ROBIN BLECKER & DALEY
2ND FLOOR
330 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10017

EXAMINER	
YE, LIN	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2612	

DATE MAILED: 03/27/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/118,754	Applicant(s) NORO ET AL.
	Examiner Lin Ye	Art Unit 2612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____ .

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-55* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-55* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11)☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a)☐ approved b)☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) *4* .
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

2. Claims 1-55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Suzuki et al. U.S. Patent 6,239,836.

Referring to claims 1, 19, 20 and 38, Suzuki reference discloses in Figures 1- 7, a camera control system is capable to control a video camera (1-11) from a plurality of computer terminals via a network (See Col 4, lines 9-18). The camera control device (1-12) is arranged to receive a camera control command from one of the plurality of computer terminals (1-2 to 1-n) (See Col. 4, lines 41-44). In Suzuki's second embodiment of the invention, the video camera is automatically controlled in a predetermined manner while the camera control right

is locked which can be considered the control command for the video camera is not received from any of the plurality of computer terminals (See Col 10, lines 15 -18).

Referring to claims 2, 21 and 39, the camera control system has a timer (1-19). It executes automatic control of the video camera if the control command is not received for a predetermined time period (See Col 10, lines 49-51).

Referring to claims 3, 22 and 40, the camera control system transmits a video image of the video camera in response to a request from each of the plurality of computer terminals (1-2 to 1-n) (See Col. 4, lines 41-44). It stops automatic control of the video camera if the video image of the video camera is not outputted from video transmitting as shown Figure 4 (See Col.7, lines 26-33).

Referring to claims 4 and 41, the camera control system issues a control right of the video camera to one of the plurality of computer terminals which makes a request to acquire the control right of the video camera which is required for control the video camera. In the second Suzuki's embodiment, it can either execute or stop automatic control of the video camera if the control right of the video camera is not issued to any of the plurality of computer terminals (See Col 10, lines 30-35).

Referring to claim 23, the camera control system issues a control right of the video camera to one of the plurality of computer terminals which makes a request to acquire the control right of the video camera which is required for control the video camera. In the first Suzuki's embodiment, it can stop automatic control of the video camera if the control right of the video camera is not issued to any of the plurality of computer terminals (See Col 7, lines 17-25).

Referring to claims 5, 24 and 42, the camera control system executes automatic control of the video camera if a predetermined time period elapses after the control right of the video camera is released (See Col 6, lines 60-65).

Referring to claims 6, 25 and 43, the camera control system transmits a video image of the video camera in response to a request from each of the plurality of computer terminals (1-2 to 1-n). It stops automatic control of the video camera if the video image of the video camera is not outputted from video transmitting to any computer terminal other than the computer terminal to which the control right of the video camera is issued. (See Col 7, lines 10-25).

Referring to claims 7, 26 and 44, the camera control system issues control rights of a predetermined plurality of video cameras to one computer terminal. (See Col 7, lines 59-66).

Referring to claims 8, 27 and 45, the camera control system executes automatic control of the predetermined plurality of video camera s if the control rights of the predetermined plurality of video camera s are not issued to any of the computer terminals. (See Col 10, lines 17-18).

Referring to claims 9, 28 and 46, the camera control system executes automatic control of the predetermined plurality of video cameras excluding a video camera whose control right is received, if the control rights of the predetermined plurality of video cameras are issued tone computer terminal (See Col 10, lines 30-46).

Referring to claims 10, 29 and 47, the camera control system executes automatic control of video cameras whose control rights are not received for a predetermined time period, from among the predetermined time period, from among the predetermined plurality of video

cameras, if the control rights of the predetermined plurality of video cameras are issued to on computer terminal (See Col 10, lines 30-46).

Referring to claims 11-12, 30-31 and 48-49, the camera control system stores at least of an image pickup direction of the video camera, and executes automatic control of the video camera on the basis of the loci of the image pickup direction of the video camera storage (See Col 4, lines 35-40).

Referring to claims 13, 32 and 50, the camera control system stores an image pickup direction relative to a central position in a range in the video camera can pickup an image. (See Col 4, lines 35-40).

Referring to claims 14, 33 and 51, the camera control system stores at least one of a zoom magnification, a subject distance and an on/off state of backlight correction oft eh video camera, correspondingly with the image pickup direction of the video camera. (See Col 4, lines 26-40).

Referring to claims 15, 34 and 52, the camera control system dives a range of controllable image pickup directing of the video camera into a plurality of ranges and measuring a time period which elapses when the video camera is being controlled in accordance 3with a control command from one of the plurality of computer terminals in each of the plurality of divided ranges, and controls an image pickup direction of the video camera within a particular range of the plurality of divided ranges in which particular range a total of the time periods measured is largest. (See Col 6, lines 54-59).

Referring to claims 16, 35 and 53, the camera control system transmits a video image in response to a video transmission request from each of the plurality of computer terminals

while changing over the video signals at intervals of a predetermined time period (See Col 12, lines 7-10).

Referring to claims 17, 36 and 54, the camera control system counts at least one of the number of times by which the control right has been issued to each of a predetermined plurality of video cameras, and issues the number of times by which a request to acquire the control right of each of the predetermined plurality of video cameras has been received from the plurality of computer terminals. It controls changeover time periods of outputting of video signals of the predetermined plurality of video cameras on the basis of the number of times counted. (See Col 4, lines 54-59). It also executes automatic control and changes over the video images from the predetermined plurality of video cameras on the basis of the changeover time periods controlled by changeover means and outputs a video image to a computer terminal which has made the video transmission request (See Col 3, lines 50-60).

Referring to claims 18, 37 and 55, the camera control system controls the changeover time periods of outputting of the video signals of the predetermined plurality of video cameras in proportion to the number of times counted by counting means. (See Col 4, lines 54-59 and Col 12, lines 1-11).

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

a. Sasaki et al. U.S 6,122,005 discloses the name of one camera to be controlled is displayed in camera-name display field of a camera control interface displayed on a screen.

b. Kato et al. U.S 2001/0033332 discloses in observing images picked up by a plurality of cameras connected to a network in a surveillance camera system.

c. Ono U.S 6,133,941 discloses a camera control system including a server to which a camera is connected, and clients which can remote control the image pickup conditions of the camera.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Lin Ye** whose telephone number is **(703) 305-3250**. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wendy R Garber can be reached on (703) 305-4929.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, DC. 20231

Or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

Lin Ye
March 22, 2002

WENDY R. GARBER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600